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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY-REGION VII
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK

BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATOR

IN THE MATTER OF

)

)

Docket No. CWA-07-2002-0074

)

Ashland Inc., d/b/a Valvoline
Instant Oil Change

)

)

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
FINAL ORDER

Respondent.

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

This proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty was initiated on or about February 20, 2002, pursuant to Section 311(b)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (hereinafter CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b)(6), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, when the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII (hereinafter Complainant or EPA) issued to Ashland Inc., d/b/a Valvoline Instant Oil Change, (hereinafter Respondent) a Complaint and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.

The Complaint charged Respondent with violations of CWA Section 311(b)(6), 33 U.S.C. § 1321, and the regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 311(b)(3) and (j) of the CWA and codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 110 and 112. The Complaint proposed a civil penalty of Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$4,250) for these violations.

Complainant and Respondent entered into negotiations in an attempt to settle the allegations contained in the Complaint; this Consent Agreement and Final Order are the result of such negotiations.

CONSENT AGREEMENT

1. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations of the Complaint, and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations of the Complaint.
2. Respondent waives its right to a judicial or administrative hearing on any issue of fact or law set forth in the Complaint.
3. Respondent and Complainant agree to conciliate this matter without the necessity of a formal hearing, and to bear their respective costs and attorneys' fees.
4. Respondent certifies by the signing of this Consent Agreement and Final Order that to the best of Respondent's knowledge, Respondent is presently in compliance with all requirements of Section 311 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321, and all regulations promulgated thereunder.
5. Nothing contained in the Final Order shall alter or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state and local environmental statutes and regulations and applicable permits.
6. The settlement pursuant to this Consent Agreement shall only resolve Respondent's liability for Federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged in the Complaint.
7. Respondent consents to the issuance of the Final Order hereinafter recited and consents to the payment of a mitigated civil penalty as set forth below.
8. The undersigned representative of Respondent certifies he or she is fully authorized to enter the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Final Order and to execute and legally bind Respondent to it.

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1321, as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and based upon the information set forth in the Consent Agreement, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent shall pay a mitigated civil penalty of Three Thousand Six Hundred Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3,612.50) within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Final Order. Payment shall be by cashier's or certified check referencing the docket number CWA-07-2002-0074, and made payable to the "Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund" and remitted to:

U.S. Coast Guard
Civil Penalties
P.O. Box 100160
Atlanta, GA 30384


2. Respondent shall send a copy of the check to:

Kristina Kemp
Office of Regional Counsel
EPA, Region VII
901 North Fifth Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

3. Respondent's failure to pay any portion of the civil penalty assessed herein in accordance with the provisions of this Order shall result in commencement of a civil action in Federal District Court to recover the total penalty proposed in the Complaint, together with interest thereon at the applicable statutory rate.

4. Respondent and Complainant shall bear their own costs and attorneys' fees incurred as a result of this matter.

COMPLAINANT:
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

By 
U. Gale Hutton
Director
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Branch

Date April 5, 2002.

RESPONDENT:

Ashland Inc.,
d/b/a Valvoline Instant
Oil Change

Signature

Kristina M. Woods

Printed

KRISTINA M. WOODS

Title

Senior Counsel

Date

April 25, 2002

IT IS SO ORDERED. This Final Order shall become effective
immediately.

Robert L. Patrick

Robert L. Patrick
Regional Judicial Officer
Region VII

Date

May 13, 2002

IN THE MATTER OF ASHLAND INC. d.b.a. VALVOLINE INSTANT OIL CHANGE
Docket No. CWA-07-2002-0074

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Final Order was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy hand delivered to
Attorney for Complainant:

Kristina Kemp
Assistant Regional Counsel
Region VII
United States Environmental Protection Agency
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Copy by U.S. Certified Mail,
Return Receipt Requested, to:

Ashland Inc. d.b.a. Valvoline Instant Oil Change
The Corporation Company
120 South Central Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

and

Copy by First Class Mail to:

US. Coast Guard
Finance Center (OGR)
1430A Kristina Way
Chesapeake, Virginia 23326

Dated: May 13, 2002

Abbey White for
Kathy Robinson
Regional Hearing Clerk